

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/051,574

Examiner

Michael B. Holmes

Applicant(s)

FERGUSON ET AL.

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to August 22, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-90.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 – www.uspto.gov

Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. Applicant arguments of Claims 1-90 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:
3. The closest prior art *Keeler et al.* (USPN 5,729,661) and *Michael J. Tipping* "Sparse Bayesian Learning and the Relevance Vector Machine" does not teach or render obvious applicant's claimed invention. In particular, as pointed out below, the prior art lacks certain features and the combination as specified in the respective claims.
4. With regards to claim 1 the aforementioned references do not disclose the limitation a support vector machine, where the support vector machine comprises multiple inputs, and each input is associated with a respective portion of input data, the support vector machine is operable to receive the reconciled data as input data to the multiple inputs, and to generate output data in accordance with the reconciled data.
5. With regards to claim 24 the aforementioned references do not disclose the limitation a support vector machine, where the support vector machine comprises multiple inputs, and each

Art Unit: 2121

input is associated with a respective portion of input data, the support vector machine is operable to receive the reconciled data as input data to the multiple inputs, and to generate output data in accordance with the reconciled data.

6. With regards to claim 31 the aforementioned references do not disclose the limitation providing the reconciled data as input data to the multiple inputs of the support vector machine and the support vector machine generating output data in accordance with the reconciled data.

7. With regards to claim 54 the aforementioned references do not disclose the limitation providing the reconciled data as input data to the multiple inputs of the support vector machine and the support vector machine generating output data in accordance with the reconciled data.

8. With regards to claim 61 the aforementioned references do not disclose the limitation a support vector machine, wherein the support vector machine comprises multiple inputs, and each input is associated with a respective portion of input data, the support vector machine is operable to receive the reconciled data as input data to the multiple inputs, and to generate output data in accordance with the reconciled data.

9. With regards to claim 68 the aforementioned references do not disclose the limitation provide the reconciled data as input data to the multiple inputs of the support vector machine.

Correspondence Information

10. Any inquires concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael B. Holmes, who may be reached Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST. or via telephone at (571) 272-3686 or facsimile transmission (571) 273-3686 or email Michael.holmesb@uspto.gov.

Art Unit: 2121

If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to (571) 273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful the Examiner's Supervisor, Anthony Knight, may be reached at (571) 272-3687.

Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist @ (Customer Service Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22313), located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building.

Michael B. Holmes

Patent Examiner

Artificial Intelligence

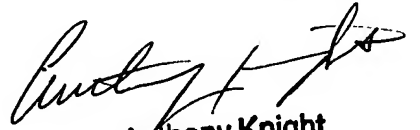
Art Unit 2121

United States Department of Commerce

Patent & Trademark Office

Thursday, October 27, 2005

MBH



Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600